CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A disk drive, comprising:

a storage disk;

an actuator arm that moves relative to the storage disk;

a load beam secured to the actuator arm;

a slider including a data transducer, a leading edge, a trailing edge, an air bearing surface and first and second pads, wherein the data transducer ~~that~~ exchanges information with the storage disk during data transfer operations, the pads are spaced from the leading and trailing edges and one another, extend below the air bearing surface and contact the storage disk when stiction occurs, the first pad is closer to the leading edge than to the trailing edge, and the second pad is closer to the trailing edge than to the leading edge; and

a head suspension that secures the slider to the load beam and positions the slider near the storage disk, the head suspension maintaining the slider pitch at a pitch static attitude of less than zero degrees during the data transfer operations, wherein the stiction between the slider and the storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was greater than zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

2. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of between zero and approximately negative two degrees.

3. (Original) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of less than approximately negative one degree.

4. (Original) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of approximately negative two degrees.

5. (Original) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of less than approximately negative two degrees.

6. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of claim 1 wherein the first pad is positioned between the leading edge and the second pad, and the second pad is positioned between the first pad and the trailing edge~~slider is a padded slider that includes an air bearing surface and at least one pad that extends below the air bearing surface and contacts the storage disk when the stiction occurs~~.

7. (Original) The disk drive of claim 1 including a ramp positioned near an outer diameter of the storage disk.

8. (Currently Amended) A transducer assembly for a disk drive, the disk drive including a storage disk and an actuator arm, the transducer assembly comprising:

a slider including a data transducer, a leading edge, a trailing edge, an air bearing surface and first and second pads, wherein the data transducer ~~that~~ exchanges information with the storage disk during data transfer operations, the pads are spaced from the leading and trailing edges and one another, extend below the air bearing surface and contact the storage disk when stiction occurs, the first pad is closer to the leading edge than to the trailing edge, and the second pad is closer to the trailing edge than to the leading edge;

a load beam that attaches to the actuator arm; and

a head suspension that secures the slider to the load beam and positions the slider near the storage disk, the head suspension maintaining the slider pitch at a pitch static attitude of less than zero degrees during the data transfer operations, wherein the stiction between the slider and the storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was greater than zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

9. (Previously Presented) The transducer assembly of claim 8 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of between zero and approximately negative two degrees.

10. (Original) The transducer assembly of claim 8 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of less than approximately negative one degree.

11. (Previously Presented) The transducer assembly of claim 8 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of approximately negative two degrees.

12. (Original) A head stack assembly including an actuator arm and the transducer assembly of claim 8.

13. (Original) A disk drive including the transducer assembly of claim 8.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of making a disk drive, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a storage disk;

providing an actuator arm that moves relative to the storage disk;

providing a slider including a data transducer, a leading edge, a trailing edge, an air bearing surface and first and second pads, wherein the data transducer ~~that~~ exchanges information with the storage disk during data transfer operations, the pads are spaced from the leading and trailing edges and one another, extend below the air bearing surface and contact the storage disk when stiction occurs, the first pad is closer to the leading edge than to the trailing edge, and the second pad is closer to the trailing edge than to the leading edge;

securing a load beam to the actuator arm; and

securing the slider to the load beam with a head suspension, the head suspension maintaining the slider pitch at a pitch static attitude of less than zero degrees during the data transfer operations, wherein the stiction between the slider and the storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was greater than zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of between zero and approximately negative two degrees.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of less than approximately negative one degree.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of approximately negative two degrees.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the head suspension maintains the slider at a pitch static attitude of less than negative two degrees.

19. (Currently Amended The method of claim 14 wherein the first pad is positioned between the leading edge and the second pad, and the second pad is positioned between the first pad and the trailing edge~~step of providing a slider includes providing a padded slider that includes an air bearing surface and at least one pad that extends below the air bearing surface and contacts the storage disk when the stiction occurs~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A disk drive, comprising:

a storage disk; and

a slider including a data transducer, a leading edge, a trailing edge, an air bearing surface and first and second pads, wherein the data transducer ~~that~~ exchanges information with the storage disk during data transfer operations, the pads are spaced from the leading and trailing edges and one another, extend below the air bearing surface and contact the storage disk when stiction occurs, the first pad is closer to the leading edge than to the trailing edge, and the second pad is closer to the trailing edge than to the leading edge,~~wherein~~ the slider has a pitch static attitude of less than zero degrees during the data transfer operations, and the stiction between the slider and the storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

21. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the pitch static attitude is between zero and negative two degrees.

22. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the pitch static attitude is approximately negative two degrees.

23. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the pitch static attitude is approximately negative two degrees.

24. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 50% less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

25. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 66% less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

26. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 75% less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

27. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 2 grams less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

28. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 3 grams less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

29. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the stiction is at least 4 grams less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

30. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of claim 20 wherein the first pad is positioned between the leading edge and the second pad, and the second pad is positioned between the first

pad and the trailing edge~~the slider includes an air bearing surface and a pad that extends below the air bearing surface and contacts the storage disk when the stiction occurs~~.

31. (Currently Amended) A disk drive, comprising:

a storage disk; and

a slider including a data transducer, a leading edge, a trailing edge, an air bearing surface and first and second~~a plurality of~~ pads, wherein the data transducer exchanges information with the storage disk during data transfer operations, the pads are spaced from the leading and trailing edges and one another, extend below the air bearing surface and contact the storage disk when stiction occurs, the first pad is closer to the leading edge than to the trailing edge, the second pad is closer to the trailing edge than to the leading edge, the first pad is positioned between the leading edge and the second pad, the second pad is positioned between the first pad and the trailing edge, neither pad extends midway between the leading and trailing edges~~the pads extend from the air bearing surface towards the storage disk~~, the slider has a pitch static attitude of less than zero degrees during the data transfer operations, and the stiction between the slider and the storage disk is substantially less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations~~, and the pads contact the storage disk when the stiction occurs~~.

32. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the pitch static attitude is between zero and negative two degrees.

33. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the pitch static attitude is between negative one-half degree and negative two degrees.

34. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the pitch static attitude is approximately negative two degrees.

35. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 50% less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

36. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 66% less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

37. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 75% less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

38. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 2 grams less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

39. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 3 grams less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.

40. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 31 wherein the stiction is at least 4 grams less than if the pitch static attitude was zero degrees during the data transfer operations.